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REVIEW OF LATVIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS
AT REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The 20 September 1952 report by Ya. E. Kalnberzin, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Latvia, to the 12th Congress of the KP(b) of Latvia, contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

In the period since the 11th Congress, the main tasks in the sphere of agriculture have been to raise the yield of all crops, increase collectivized livestock numbers and livestock productivity, increase commercial production of agricultural and animal products, and improve the operation of MTS and sovkhozes.

In 1952, the republic is again receiving many tractors, self-propelled grain combines, flax combines, and other machinery and equipment. In 1952, construction of five new MTS has been undertaken, 45 mechanized land improvement stations activated. In 1952, about 175,000 metric tons of mineral fertilizer have been released to kolkhozes of the republic, 5,000 metric tons of seeds loaned, and 42 million rubles of state credit extended for the development of the collectivized kolkhoz economy.

In 1952, the sown area in kolkhozes increased by 107,000 hectares, as compared with 1951. The sown area devoted to spring wheat increased by 48 percent, industrial crops 11 percent, and vegetables 42 percent. The republic exceeded the plan for sowing of perennial grasses; 220,000 hectares were sown, or 57 percent more than in 1951. In 1952, the grain yield was about 2-3 quintals per hectare higher and the sugar beet yield about 30-40 quintals per hectare higher than in 1951. The sown area and yields increased also in sovkhozes.

As compared with those of 1 January 1952, livestock numbers in kolkhozes increased as follows in 1952: cattle 12.4 percent; sheep 42.5 percent; and hogs 2 percent. For the first 8 months of 1952, milk yield per forage cow in kolkhozes rose by 90 liters over the same period of 1951 and averaged 1,222 liters; in sovkhozes, the corresponding rise was 376 liters and the corresponding rise was 376 liters and the corresponding average was 2,817 liters.

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The basic funds of kolkhozes increased by 69.2 million rubles in 1951. Monetary income rose by 84.4 million rubles, or by 18.6 percent over 1950. In 1951, 55 kolkhozes in the republic had incomes in excess of one million rubles.

Agricultural successes could have been greater if party, soviet, and agricultural organs had not been guilty of serious shortcomings in their supervision of kolkhozes. Such shortcomings included inability of the organs to overcome traditional working methods, inability to introduce simultaneous carrying out of agricultural operations (spring sowing and plowing of summer fallow, harvesting of various crops at the same time, plowing of winter fallow and fall sowing), and continued toleration of gross violations of the kolkhoz charter. As a result of corrective measures taken, kolkhozes have recovered many diverted hectares of land, much pilfered grain, and considerable sums of embezzled money.

The directives on the Fifth Five-Year Plan call for agriculture in the republic to become more productive, with emphasis on grass sowing and crop rotation and with a greater proportion of the sown area devoted to industrial and fodder crops, vegetables, and potatoes. At present, crop rotation has been worked out for 927 kolkhozes but actually introduced in only 757 kolkhozes. The directives also call for further development of animal husbandry, with emphasis on dairy cattle and hogs; average milk yield per cow is to be raised to 3,000 kilograms by the end of the new Five-Year Plan period.

Land improvement plays a great role in successfully solving the tasks of increasing agricultural crop yields and bettering the condition of pastures and meadows. Land improvement receives considerable attention in the directives on the Fifth Five-Year Plan. But the Main Administration of Land Improvement under the Council of Ministers Latvian SSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the republic, directors of MTS and mechanized land improvement stations and rayon agricultural organs are not utilizing existing possibilities for expansion of land improvement work.

Available equipment in MTS should have made it possible to perform up to 55 percent of basic field operations in kolkhozes by machine in 1952. However, MTS operation is unsatisfactory. Tractor and combine operation is poor. Agricultural machinery repair work is performed badly and with much delay, resulting in prolonged idleness of machines. MTS were unable to cope with spring field work, and harvesting work is proceeding in an unsatisfactory manner. MTS are short about 2,000 tractor, combine, flax puller, and other machine operators; the plans for training cadres in mechanical schools and through courses at MTS are not being fulfilled.

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